

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay, you have 15 seconds left. Time is up. Senator Monen.

SENATOR MONEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say that I was disappointed that the judges' pay increase is now scheduled for one 3 percent raise. I think that is woefully inadequate and I have to tell you at the outset that I don't have any interest, personal interest in this. My retirement does not in anyway tie to future increases. As a matter of fact, I suppose as inflation rolls on, my fixed retirement becomes smaller and smaller by comparison. So I suppose I just ought to just pull up the rug and say we shouldn't pay anybody any more in any regard, but I don't think that's good for society. And I listened to Senator Fisher, I think he comes from the bankers' hearty handshake school of employee compensation, and I will tell you that money, in our society what is number one in terms of compensation is money. And I think the judges enjoy their work and there is some compensation in that. They are not asking to be compensated to the extent that the most hard driving, high-priced lawyers are at 250 or 500 thousand dollars a year, or more, but we ought to at least, at least, keep up with inflation, and the last raise effective 1992 just doesn't do that. I went to the Mayo Clinic to have an operation and I was scared to death. I tell you when I went in there, I didn't say to the world class surgeon that, you know, I could find somebody in Omaha that would do this operation for \$500 less, and I think this is...that's what we should compare these judges to, not to the other state employees, or people at the football field, or wherever. These are the most important people, among the most important people in our society, and they should be compensated properly. When we...when we go to court and we have a case that we want the judge to decide, don't we want to make sure, if we can, that we've got a person there of highest intelligence, experience, honesty, and industry? That is somehow tied to the compensation that the judges receive, and I am going to reluctantly support the 3 percent, but it ought to be 10 percent or more. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Monen. Senator Robinson has guests, 45 students from Fort Calhoun High School, in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, and their teacher. Please welcome them to the Legislature. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Schmitt, Crosby, Lynch, and Wickersham.

SENATOR SCHIMMER: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of